

State of California
Business, Transportation & Housing Agency
Department of Transportation

Prepared by:
Gary Winters
Chief
Division of Environmental Analysis

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

08-Riv-60 KP R0.0/13.7 (PM R0.0/R8.5)
Action Item

CTC Meeting: October 3, 2002

Reference No.: 2.2c.(7)

Original Signed By:
ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer
October 1, 2002

**APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
TO ADD HOV AND MIXED-FLOW LANES IN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, NEAR THE
CITY OF RIVERSIDE**

RESOLUTION E-02-49

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Negative Declaration has been completed:

- Route 60 in Riverside County – Add HOV and mixed-flow lanes near Riverside.

The project is fully funded in the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) with Regional Improvement Program (RIP) and Interregional Improvement Program (IIP) shares. The total cost of the project is \$38,046,000 with \$25,000,000 coming from Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP). Construction is expected to begin in FY 2002/03.

The Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Study has been transmitted to California Transportation Commission staff.

The Department of Transportation has approved the project for construction. This approval and the resulting filing of the Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research will satisfy the environmental requirements for this stage of the project planning process.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-02-49.

Attachment

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 08-Riv-60 KP R0.0/13.7 (PM R0.0/R8.5)

Resolution E-02-49

- 1.1 WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Negative Declaration in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the CEQA Guidelines, and the California Transportation Commission Environmental Regulations for the following project:

 - Route 60 in Riverside County – Add HOV and mixed-flow lanes near Riverside.
- 1.2 WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project.

State Route 60

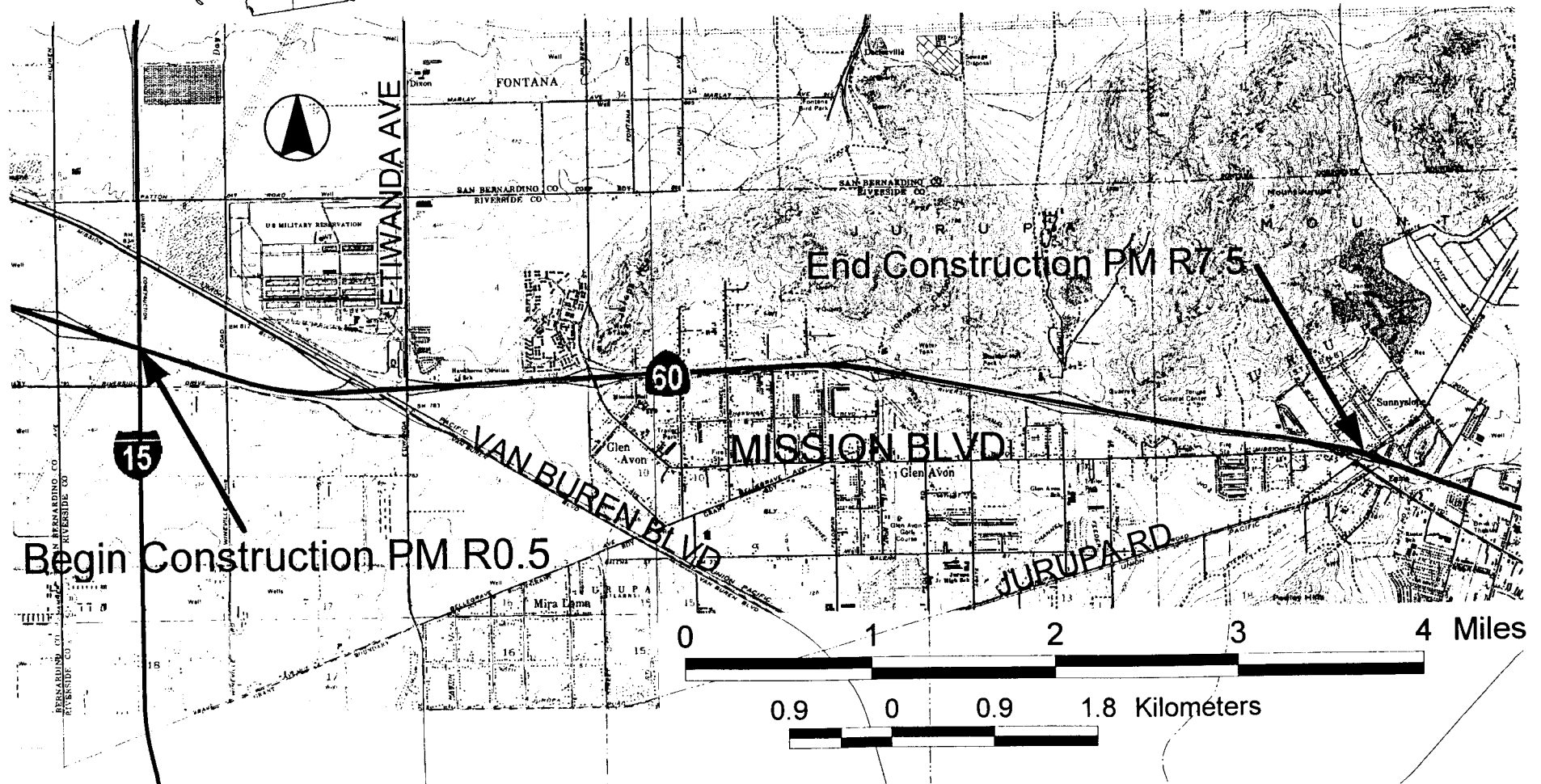
HOV and Mixed Flow Lane Addition Widening Project

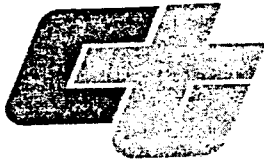
Construction Limits: Postmile R0.5 to R7.5 - Kilopost R0.8 to R12.1

Work Limits (Signs, Striping, ect.): Postmile R0.0 to R8.5 - Kilopost R0.0 to R13.7

Project Location

EA: 35480





EA# 354800

SCH #2002051078

State Route 60

HOV and Mixed-Flow Lane Addition Widening

from the SR-60 / I-15 Interchange to Valley Way

CONSTRUCTION LIMITS: POSTMILE R0.5 to R7.5 – KILOPOST R0.8 to R12.1

WORK LIMITS (Signs): POSTMILE R0.0 to R8.5 – KILOPOST R0.0 to R13.7

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION and ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This Project is located in:

T.2 S., R.6 W. Sections: 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12

T.2 S., R.5 W. Sections: 6, 7, & 8

San Bernardino Base & Meridian

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

March 2002

Executive Summary

State Route 60 (PM R0.5-R7.5/KP R0.8-R12.1)

HOV and Mixed-Flow Lane Addition Widening

INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), propose to make improvements to State Route 60 from the State Route 60/I-15 Interchange to Valley Way in Rubidoux. This project is in western Riverside County, California.

The accelerated economic and population growth of the Inland Empire has prompted a large increase in vehicular traffic. The population in western Riverside County is expected to double in 20 years. The population upsurge along with commercial, industrial, and commuter traffic demands have reduced the level of service (LOS) to D on this segment Route 60 and traffic projections indicate LOS F by 2020 if the proposed improvements are not completed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed improvements will add two High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and two Mixed-Flow lanes in the median along an eleven-kilometer (seven-mile) segment of State Route 60. The project will reduce congestion and close the HOV lane gap between the existing Caltrans District 8 HOV lanes on Route 60 at the I-15 Interchange and the existing HOV lanes extending from Valley Way to University Avenue toward the East. The proposed work includes: paving the median, constructing a concrete median barrier, widening of six bridge structures including a railroad overhead, drainage modification work, construction of soundwalls, installation of a fiber optic cable for the Caltrans Traffic Management System, traffic signs and, related work. The limits of work may extend a mile beyond the posted construction limits.

PROJECT COST AND FUNDING

Project cost is estimated to be \$38 million. Funding sources include the California Traffic Congestion Relief Plan fund (TCRP), Caltrans State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), and local funding from the Riverside County Measure A funds. Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) for this project is scheduled for April 2002 and Construction is anticipated to begin in June 2003 and end in April 2006. The project is listed in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) (page K-219) which was found to be conforming by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on June 8, 2001. The project is also in the SCAG 2000/01-2005/06 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) (page 23 – Riverside County State Highway Projects) which was found to be conforming by FHWA and FTA on September 25, 2001. Project design and scope are also consistent with the project description in the above RTP and RTIP.

PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

Schedule Dates	Development Milestone
06/30/02	PA & ED (Project Approval & Environmental Document)
11/01/02	Structure PS & E (Plans, Specifications and Estimates)
02/01/03	District PS & E (Plans, Specifications and Estimates)
02/01/03	Right of Way Certification
04/01/03	RTL (Ready to List – advertise for construction bids)
06/01/03	Begin Construction
04/01/06	Open to Traffic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY continued

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

No permits or approvals are required for this project.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this project is to:

1. Facilitate movement of people and goods by reducing congestion and improving the levels of service on SR-60.
2. To provide continuity to the SR-60 HOV system from the Los Angeles County line and eastward through construction of new HOV lanes.

The existing Level of Service between the State Route 60 / Interstate 15 interchange and Valley Way is LOS D. This is from an increasing Average Daily Traffic (ADT) due to the rapid growth of Riverside County. Traffic projections indicate that LOS will be reduced to F prior to the year 2020 if proposed improvements are not completed. The segment of State Route 60 is also a gap in the State Route 60 HOV lane system. Caltrans District 7 completed HOV lanes to the Los Angeles County line and District 8 has completed HOV lanes from the Los Angeles County line to the SR-60 / I-15 interchange. HOV lanes have also been completed in District 08 from Valley Way eastward to University Avenue in the City of Riverside. This system is planned to ultimately be extended into the City of Moreno Valley.

ALTERNATIVES

ALTERNATIVE 1, the "Build" alternative, proposes to add an HOV and a Mixed-Flow lane in each direction in the median of this portion of Route 60. This alternative is the preferred alternative because it will meet the project's purpose and need by providing capacity sufficient to maintain a level of service consistent with the SR-60 Route Concept Report.

Proposed work includes: paving the median, constructing a concrete median barrier, widening of five bridge structures and a railroad overhead, drainage modification work, construction of soundwalls, installation of a fiber optic cable for the Caltrans Traffic Management System, traffic signs and related work.

ALTERNATIVE 2, the "No Build" alternative. The HOV and Mixed-Flow lane addition would not be completed. With this alternative, the LOS on the project segment would deteriorate to "F" by 2020. This alternative would also fail to provide continuity in the State Route 60 HOV system.

RELATED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN THE AREA

The following projects have been planned, designed, and coordinated with or are within the limits of the proposed HOV and Mixed-Flow lane addition project:

Valley Way Interchange Modification [Riv-60-PM R7.5 – KP R12.1] (EA: 46350) – This Riverside County Department of Transportation project is currently in the planning stages. The project proposes to increase the operational characteristics of the Valley Way to Route 60 interchange. Project Approval and Environmental Approval is scheduled for July 1, 2005.

Landscaping [Riv-60-PM R1.0/R9.50 – KP R1.6/R15.3] (EA: 1A300) – Caltrans proposes to landscape areas along Route 60. Trees, vines, and other ornamental vegetation will be planted to create a visually improved highway setting. This project is still in the planning stages and no definite dates have yet been set for this project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY continued

Installation of TMS traffic control devices [Riv-60-PM R0.5-R9.5 – KP R0.9-R15.3] (EA: 49610G) – Field traffic controlled and monitoring devices will be installed from the Interstate 15 interchange to Redlands Boulevard. This project was implemented by the Caltrans long-range traffic operation plan and is currently in the planning stages. Project Approval and Environmental Approval is scheduled for October 1, 2003 and Ready to List for Construction bids is set for May 2, 2005.

EVALUATION & MITIGATION MEASURES

Air Quality

- Air Quality studies show that, as a result of the project, State or Federal Carbon Monoxide (CO) standards for one-hour and eight-hour durations will not be exceeded.
- The project will not cause or contribute to any localized PM-10 violation or increase the frequency and severity of any existing PM-10 violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for regional Air Quality modeling for compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act. The project is listed in the current conforming 2001 RTP (approved June 8, 2001) and the 2000/01 - 2005/2006 RTIP/FTIP (approved September 25, 2001).
- Dust control during construction as stated in Caltrans Standard Provisions for construction projects will be required.

Historic, Social and Cultural

- There are no properties or bridges listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP).
- No archeological resources will be affected because the proposed work will be within the freeway right of way and will not affect natural soils.
- No cultural resource mitigation is needed.

Hazardous Waste

- No recordings of hazardous waste, hazardous materials, spills, landfills, leaking storage tanks or other sites listed on State or Federal databases covering the project area have been found.
- Soil investigation for areas along the shoulders of the existing highway revealed that the project segment is non-hazardous for Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL).
- No Hazardous Waste mitigation is needed.

Noise

- Caltrans proposes nine soundwalls per results of the reasonable and feasible analysis; however, two walls have been declined by property owners (See Environmental Evaluation – noise). Calculations based on preliminary design indicate that the barriers will reduce noise levels by 5 to 11 decibels (dBA).
- The project is considered to be a TYPE 1 project and FHWA Noise Tidbits were used as guidance to determine abatement measures for construction and operational noise.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY continued

Biological Resources

- State or Federal listed species are not present in the project area. The vegetation in the study area includes no sensitive natural plant communities and is not likely to provide habitat for sensitive animal species.
- As requested by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), two native trees will be preserved in the construction of soundwall nine, behind the Country Village Apartments.

Water Quality

- The project design will include erosion and sedimentation control measures, which may include replacement landscaping, construction of slopes at 1:4 or flatter where feasible, hydro-seeding of steeper cut slopes, straw placement on steeper slopes to minimize erosion, improvement of drainage facilities to handle excess runoff and construction of sediment deposition basin.

Construction Impacts

- Noise - Caltrans standard construction noise regulations will be applied to mitigate adverse effects to local residents.
- Traffic - Traffic circulation will be preserved as much as possible to avoid adverse impacts to the regular flow of vehicular traffic. A minimum of 2 traffic lanes in each direction will be kept open at all times.
- Air Quality - To minimize the effects of construction dust generated, Caltrans standard dust control measures will be applied. Requirements of the South Coast Air Quality Management District on emulsified asphalt paving materials will also be adhered to.
- Water Quality - Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) measures, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) measures and measures included in the Caltrans Standard Specifications will be implemented and part of the construction contract.

PROJECT CIRCULATION

Public Information Meeting

A Public Meeting was held by the Caltrans Environmental Engineering unit on June 20, 2001 at the Jurupa Cultural Center to present the State Route 60 HOV and MF project and to seek comments on the proposed sound walls. Several letters were sent to inform the to be affected homeowners of the project (See Attachment A - Soundwall comment sheet and follow up letter) where soundwalls were to be built with respect to their property. A comment card was attached to the letters and cards were distributed at the meeting as well. The comments were summarized in the Noise Study Report.

State Clearinghouse and Public Circulation

The State Route 60 HOV and MF project IS/EA was circulated through various State Agencies through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research - State Clearinghouse from May 14, 2002 through June 14 2002. A Notice of Availability and Opportunity for a Public Hearing was published in a local newspaper on May 14, 2002 and June 4, 2002. (See Attachment B) A Notice of Availability informs that public that the Environmental Document is in circulation and where a copy may be obtained.

No State Agency comments were received during circulation. One comment was received during the public circulation. (See Exhibit H for public comments and Caltrans responses.)